

eMOLT

Spring 2011 Update

eMOLT 10-year anniversary “Get Together” at Fish Forum well-attended

Thanks all who joined us for the opening day of the 2011 Maine Fishermen Forum. In addition to eMOLT-related talks, we heard from Diane Cowan, Lew Incze, Ru Morrison, Paul Music, and Heather Desse. I was happy to see many of our Massachusetts participants make the trip for the first time and hope that they can make it up in future years as well.



Temperature probes in 2011

Most of you should have a temperature probe enclosed in this mailing along with a “2011 deployment log”. If there is NOT a probe enclosed, we assume you already have your probe for 2011. If you are ever without a probe when you are fishing, please let us know at james.manning@noaa.gov or call 508-495-2211 (office) or 508-566-4080 (cell).

Double check site lat/lon positions

Once again, please take note of the latitude, longitude, and depth of your nominal eMOLT sites listed on your deployment log and let us know if they are not correct. Since most of you originally supplied your positions in Lorans and there is some uncertainty in the various conversion routines that output lat/lon, we ask that you toggle your navigation readout to lat/lon in order to validate the position.

Current Meters in 2011

Those of you who deployed a current meter probe in 2010 may be getting another one with this mailing along with an instruction sheet. We are very happy with the short test deployments last fall and are now ready to deploy them for a full season. If you did NOT get a current meter probe with this mailing and are interested in a multi-month deployment in 2011, let me know (see my contact info above). As we reviewed at the eMOLT get together, one of the by-products of this study is an assessment of how often the traps are landing wrong. We found that most traps land as they should but nearly a quarter of the participants have traps landing wrong >10% of the time. In some cases the trap was flipping on its side during particular phases of the tide.

If you got a current meter in 2010 and never returned it,

please do so immediately. If you no longer have the bubble envelope that it was sent in, you can either use one of the \$5 flat-rate US mail boxes available now at all post offices or ask me to send you one of these prepaid boxes by emailing james.manning@noaa.gov. Mail it to: Jim Manning, NOAA, Woods Hole, MA. 02543

Update on plans to expand our geographic range

As of this writing, we are still waiting to hear on our proposal to engage both the Rhode Island and Connecticut Commercial Lobstermen Associations. They would be asked to deploy temperature probes, current meters, and drifters in Buzzards Bay, Block Island Sound, and perhaps as far south and west as Long Island Sound.

Temperature probes were sent to a professional calibration facility

to check on their performance. This is done every March just prior to this mass mailing to ensure all probes are recording according to the manufacturers specification (<0.2 degC accuracy).

Option to deploy probes year-round

We encourage all eMOLT participants to consider deploying their temperature probe year-round if possible. While we understand the chance of losing the probe during the winter months, we feel it is worth the risk. If you are interested in doing so, you can call us late in the year and ask that we send you a new “winter probe” so that you can swap it out with your “fishing-season” probe.

Catch vs Temperature analysis has been resurrected

Given the haul data submitted by several participants consistently since the start of eMOLT, we have returned to this analysis. Together with the data extracted from the various Ventless Trap programs over the years, we hope to be able to say something significant about this relationship within the coming year. I plan to join forces with both Mass DMF and Maine DMR folks in this endeavor. Stay tuned.

Status of the “real-time” temperature probe project

At least two participants will be experimenting in 2011 with a new probe that wirelessly downloads data to a hand-held device on deck. While this download is NOT automatic (ie it requires a button be pushed), it is a step in the right direction. Eventually, we will be looking for the hand-held device to then wirelessly transfer the data to a dockside computer when you return to port but that won't be until 2012 at least. The technology exist to make these advances but it is still cost prohibitive to have them deployed all along the coast.